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Research Trends Editorial Board

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### The value of bibliometric measures



### Journal analysis

What can journal analysis tell us? Research Trends takes a closer look at a collection of French medical journals and a collection of physics journals.

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### Research trends



### Journal publication: why the Netherlands is so prolific

The share of world articles is dominated by those countries with the most researchers. However, the geographical distribution of the journals' publication country does not follow the same pattern. The Netherlands, which is the third largest journal publisher, is a notable case in point. Why is this?

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### Country trends



### English as the international language of science

Since the end of the Second World War, English has become the established language of scholarly communication, but not without controversy. We examine some of the reasons and the consequences for local-language publishing.

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### Expert opinion



### The misuse of metrics can harm science

When Eugene Garfield devised the Impact Factor in 1955 to help select journals for the Science Citation Index, he had no idea that 'impact' would become so controversial. Research Trends talks to Professor David Colquhoun about the subject.

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### Why did you cite...?



In this section, we ask authors why they cited a particular article. This issue we focus on a pioneering non-English paper and ask those who have cited it frequently why they did so.

Welcome to issue 6 of Research Trends. This issue focuses on various aspects of the journal, one of the principal means of scholarly communication. We examine the establishment of English as the language of science after the Second World War and how the Netherlands has become a center of English-language journal publishing. At the same time, we ask scholars who have frequently cited a non-English paper why they did so.

We also look at journal analysis. Thorough journal analysis, carried out over time, can provide useful information about the performance and position of a journal relative to other journals in the same field. There is a danger, however, that the metrics produced can be used incorrectly. Professor David Colquhoun addresses the pitfalls of metrics misuse.

We welcome your **feedback** to any of the topics covered.

Kind regards,  
The Research Trends Editorial Board

## Did you know?

### Methodological advances attract top cites

Articles describing advances or updates in experimental methodology have long been thought to attract higher numbers of citations than other research contributions, but recent research has failed to confirm this (1).

Nevertheless, the 10 most cited journal articles in molecular life sciences solely comprised papers reporting some of the most important methodological advances of the last 40 years. Articles in journals in the fields 'Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology', 'Immunology and Microbiology' and 'Multidisciplinary' were sorted by citations received to date (see Table 1 – page 8).

Reference:

(1) Aksnes, D.W. (2006) "Citation rates and perceptions of scientific contribution", *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, Vol. 57, No. 2, pp. 169–185.